Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig. 1 shows an actuating system which contains a piston-cylinder assembly 1 in the form of a gas spring. The actuating system can be used, for example, for the opening and closing movement of a vehicle door or vehicle tailgate. The piston-cylinder assembly has a cylinder 3 as one subassembly and a piston rod 5 as a second subassembly, the piston rod being movable axially relative to the cylinder. The cylinder is filled with a gaseous pressure medium, a1 with the result that a pushing-out force acts on the piston rod. Each of the two subassemblies has a connecting element 7; 9, the connecting element 7 mounted on the cylinder being designed in the form of a radial pivot bearing ~~radially~~. With regard to the above-mentioned exemplary embodiment, the pivot bearing 7 can be fastened on a vehicle body and the connecting bearing 9 can be fastened on a vehicle tailgate.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Furthermore, the actuating system comprises an adjusting device 11 which contains a motor 13 as the actuator and a Bowden cable 15 as the force-transmitting ~~means~~ element. In addition, the actuator is assigned a coupling 17 and a ~~rolling-up~~ reeling mechanism a2 19 which contains a spring (not illustrated), in order to achieve a rotational movement of the ~~rolling-up~~ reeling mechanism with the motor disconnected. Control electronics 21 in conjunction

with at least one sensor 23 which detects the movement of the tailgate influence the operation of the actuator.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The piston-cylinder assembly exerts an actuating force in the direction of extension of the piston rod 5. In contrast, the actuator together with the force-transmitting ~~means~~ element acts counter to the actuating force of the piston-cylinder assembly and enables the piston rod to be retracted again. The force-transmitting ~~means or the~~ element or Bowden cable 15 is supported axially against a stop 25. Between the stop and a connection 27 of the Bowden cable on the piston-cylinder assembly 1 there is a spacing corresponding at least to the stroke length of the piston rod.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Figure 2 is restricted in its illustration to the piston-cylinder assembly according to Fig. 1. The piston rod 5 has a piston 29 which divides the cylinder into two working spaces 31; 33. Starting from the piston, an extension 35 extends through the working space 33 as far as the connection 27 situated outside the cylinder. The extension 35 is dimensioned in such a manner that even when the piston rod 5 is extended to the maximum, the connection is not prestressed against the piston-rod guide 39. Furthermore, the extension 35 engages concentrically on the piston 29 or the piston rod 5, with the result that it is not possible for any

transverse forces to occur on the extension during an adjusting force. In order for it to be possible for the extension 35 to be fastened concentrically to the piston 29 with little structural outlay, the connecting element 7 is designed as a radial pivot bearing. As an alternative, the guide 39 could also have a pin joint 40 which contains a central channel 42 in which the extension 35 can be displaced, as is illustrated in the basic diagram in Fig. 3.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig. 4 illustrates a modification of Fig. 2. The essential difference from Fig. 2 is that the piston rod 5 is of hollow design all the way through and accommodates the connection 27. The connection has a flange 47 which is fastened to the bottom 49 of the cylinder. The length of the connection 27 is dimensioned in such a manner that it protrudes over the open end of the piston rod at every possible stroke length of the piston rod. In order not to permit any loss of operating medium to arise, the seal 41 is arranged between the hollow piston rod and the connection 27, this seal sealing the annular gap necessary for the relative movement between the extension and the piston rod. In this case, the piston rod has a radial connecting element 9 in the form of a pivot bearing. With regard to the piston rod, in the event of an effective adjusting force from the force-transmitting means 15, the cylinder 3 is drawn in the direction of the piston. The stop 43 is fitted to the connection 27 and limits the stroke when it hits stop 25.--